

Abandoned Mine Project Underway

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has announced that two projects to reclaim abandoned coal mines in the Coalville, Utah area and in the Huntington Canyon region in Emery County have begun.

The Coalville Project includes 19 portal closures, restoration of five areas of mine caving, revegetation of 5.1 acres of land and cleanup of nine coal waste piles. High Mountain Builders, a construction company based in Heber City, Utah is performing the work which is scheduled for completion by Nov. 1, 1988. The project cost is estimated at \$35,574.75.

The Meetinghouse/Rilda Project involves work at three sites: two in Meetinghouse Canyon and one in Rilda Canyon. The work entails cleanup of 14,646 cubic yards of coal spoils, 14 portal closures which includes building walls and using backfill, and debris cleanup. Minchey Digging, Cleveland, Utah

was the successful bidder for the project. The estimated project cost is \$99,971 and the completion date is Dec. 15, 1988.

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program Administrator Mary Ann Wright said both projects will make the areas safer for the public. "We will have completed reclamation of all known health and safety hazards in the Summit County region, and we are working with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service to reclaim areas of high concern like Huntington Canyon where there is so much hunting and camping," Wright said.

Utah's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is funded by a fee which every coal mine operator pays on each ton of coal produced. These fees go into a trust fund administered by the Federal Office of Surface Mining, which returns half of the monies to the states for reclamation.

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